

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Objection(s)

The claims are objected to in the office action due to informalities. Claims 1-3 and 7 have been amended in view of this objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,419,159 ("Odinak"). Claims 1 and 7 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Specifically, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to include the limitation "by modulating the electrical couple between the contact stud and the part to carry out data processing." Support for this limitation may be found, for example, on page 8 of the specification. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention, as recited in claims 1 and 7, relates to a portable object that includes a micro-controller capable of carrying out data processing. Further, the micro-controller includes an interface circuit through which the part of the micro-controller that carries out data processing receives a supply voltage. Claim 1, as amended, recites an interface circuit that is capable of varying the supply voltage by modulating the electrical couple between the contact stud and the part that carries out data processing. This allows the interface circuit to secure confidential data against current attacks. Additionally, the interface circuit is connected serially between the contact stud and the part that carries out data processing.

Odinak, in contrast to the present invention, fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations included in the amended independent claims. Odinak discloses an IC card comprising a power analysis protection device that is provided with a power analysis circuitry. The power analysis circuitry is connected in parallel between the studs (Vcc, GnD) and the CPU (see, *e.g.*, Figure 1). Additionally, the power analysis circuitry has a random state generator to randomly turn on and off any combination of individual current sinks to vary power. As a result, the power analysis circuitry adds a random signal to the power consumption. Thus, the power analysis circuitry disclosed in Odinak does not use the technique of modulating an electrical couple to vary power. Further, the power analysis circuit is connected in parallel to the studs rather than serially. Therefore, it is clear that the power analysis circuitry disclosed in Odinak differs from the interface circuit of the present invention as recited in the amended independent claims.

In view of the above, Odinak fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claims as amended. Thus, independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable

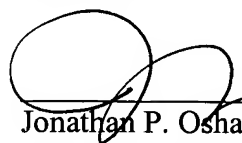
over Odinak. Additionally, claim 7 has been amended to include the limitation "by modulating the electrical couple between the contact stud and the part to carry out data processing." Support for this claim may be found, for example, on page 8 of the specification. Therefore, the aforementioned arguments regarding the patentability of claim 1 also apply to amended claim 7. Accordingly, amended claim 7 is patentable over Odinak. Dependent claims 2-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 09669.019001).

Respectfully submitted,

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